

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

NSC-10 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 IO-13 PM-07

RSR-01 /165 W

----- 098425

O R 311105Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2355

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

COMUSMACTHAI

USAAG

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7828

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN EAID, CB

SUBJECT: RICE SITUATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 7709

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PROJECTION OF THE RICE SITUATION IN PHNOM
PENH COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 28 THRU AUGUST 9, 1973.

	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31
BEGINNING STOCK	21,586.6	22,767.7	22,767.7	25,027.4
ROUTE 5	1,558	--	--	--
MEKONG RIVER	--	--	2,538	--
TOTAL AVAILABLE	23,144.6	22,767.7	25,305.7	25,027.4
LESS DISTRIBUTION	358.8	--	262.8	520

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BALANCE	22,785.3	22,767.7	25,042.9	24,507.4
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LESS ADJUSTMENT	18.1	15.5
BALANCE	22,767.7	25,027.4

	8/1	8/2	8/3	8/4	
BEGINNING STOCK	23,507.4	24,787.4	24,267.4	25,011.8	
ROUTE 5	800	--	--	--	
MEKONG	--	--	1,264.4	--	
TOTAL AVAILABLE	25,307.4	24,787.4	25,531.8	25,011.8	
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520	520	520	520	
BALANCE	24,787.4	24,267.4	25,011.8	24,491.8	

	8/5	8/6	8/7	8/8	
BEGINNING STOCK	24,491.8	24,771.8	24,251.8	23,731.8	
ROUTE 5	800	--	--	--	
MEKONG RIVER	--	--	--	--	
TOTAL AVAILABLE	25,291.8	24,771.8	24,251.8	23,731.8	

	8/9	
BEGINNING STOCK	23,211.8	
ROUTE 5	800	
MEKONG RIVER	--	
TOTAL AVAILABLE	24,011.8	
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520	
BALANCE	23,491.8 - 45.2 DAYS	

- 1) IF ROUTE 5 IS CLOSED: 21,091.8 AT 520-40.6 DAYS
- 2) IF THE MEKONG IS CLOSED: 22,227.4 AT 520-42.7 DAYS
- 3) IF BOTH ARE CLOSED: 19,827.4 AT 520-38.1 DAYS

2. RICE PRICES. PRICES, IN GENERAL, TEND TO BE STEADY SINCE THOSE QUOTED PARA. 3 REFTTEL. RICE 1/50 COULD BE PURCHASED IN UNITS IN EXCESS OF 15 KG. BROKENS 1/2 AND BROKENS 3/4 WERE AVAILABLE IN UNITS OF 15 KG. OR LESS.

7/31/73

RICE	1 KG.	15 KG.	100 KG.	GKR 100 KG.
1/15	85	1,200	7,600	5,700
1/25	70	1,050	6,500	5,500
1/50	65	900	6,300	5,000
BROKENS 1/2	58	820	N/A	3,700

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BROKENS 3/4	55	750	N/A	2,500
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3. RICE DISTRIBUTION: THE DAILY RICE DISTRIBUTION RATE FOR PHNOM PENH AND AREAS SERVED FROM PHNOM PENH IS DROPPING. THE AVERAGE RATE SINCE JUNE 20 IS NOW 469 M/T PER DAY AND THE AVERAGE RATE OF DISTRIBUTION FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS IS 330 M/T PER DAY. THERE WERE NO RELEASES OF RICE ON SUNDAY, JULY 30.

4. MEKONG CONVOY. THE JULY 30 CONVOY ARRIVED SAFELY IN PHNOM PENH. ONE SMALL MOTORIZED BARGE WAS UNABLE TO KEEP PACE WITH THE CONVOY AND REPORTEDLY STOPPED IN NEAK LUONG. WE ASSUME THIS WILL JOIN THE CONVOY ON AUGUST 3.

5. ROUTE 5. ROUTE 5 REMAINS OPEN AND A RICE CONVOY FROM BATTAMBANG AND PURSAT ARRIVED ON JULY 28 WITH 1,258 M/T OF RICE AND 3,968 BAGS OF PADDY. ALTHOUGH THE AMOUNT OF RICE DELIVERED WAS RELATIVELY HIGH FUTURE CONVOYS FROM BATTAMBANG MAY BE LOWER UNLESS SEVERAL PROBLEMS ARE CLEARED UP. SORAPA CLAIMED OVER 40,000 BAGS OF PADDY WERE READY FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO PHNOM PENH, BUT LITTLE WAS ACTUALLY AVAILABLE, WHEN IT CAME TIME TO START LOADING. SATRAR HAS ADEQUATE STOCKS OF PADDY AVAILABLE, BUT LITTLE WAS ACTUALLY RELEASED FROM THEIR WAREHOUSES. (THE DIRECTOR OF SATRAR LEFT FOR BATTAMBANG TODAY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE DELAYS.) THE GKR IS CONTEMPLATING SENDING ANOTHER DELEGATION TO BATTAMBANG FOR A WEEK TO PERSONALLY OVERSEE PURCHASE AND TRANSPORTATION OF RICE FOR PHNOM PENH. WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE GKR TO TAKE THIS STEP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7828

6. RICE AIRLIFTS. RICE AIRLIFTED IN THE PAST 72 HOURS AMOUNTS
TO THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF SORTIES AND METRIC TONS:

KOMPONG THOM SVAY RIENG KOMPONG CHAM

7/28 GKR	3-8.4	7-23.5	5-35.0
AIR AMERICA	NA	5-31.8	NA
USAF	NA	NA	-0-

7/29 GKR	-0-	3-9.0	-0-
AIR AMERICA	NA	3-17.4	NA
USAF	NA	NA	-0-

7/30 GKR	-0-	2-6.0	1-6.9
AIR AMERICA	NA	5-28.4	NA
USAF	NA	NA	-0-

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THE DECREASE IN OVERALL ACTIVITY IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS. IN PHNOM PENH, NOW THE ORIGINATING POINT FOR GKR'S AIRLIFTS TO THE ABOVE 3 LOCATIONS, A CHAOTIC SITUATION HAS DEVELOPED IN THE LAST THREE DAYS WHEREBY FANK'S RECRUITING CAMPAIGN HAS INCLUDED FORCEFUL SEIZURE OF INDIVIDUALS ON THE STREETS AND/OR IN TRUCKS HAULING RICE TO POCHENTONG AIRPORT HAVE BEEN STOPPED AT MILITARY CHECK POINTS, AND WORKERS ON BOARD TAKEN AWAY AT GUN POINT.

AT TODAY'S RICE MEETING, THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE REPORTED THAT TWO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF HAD BEEN PICKED UP IN SIMILAR FASHION BY FANK IN SPITE OF THEIR PROTEST AND IDENTIFICATION AS GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES. AT KOMPONG CHAM, THE USAF HAS DETERMINED THAT THE RUNWAY NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED BEFORE C-130'S FLIGHTS CAN BE RESUMED. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE GKR'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN KOMPONG CHAM HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE RICE COMMITTEE THAT C-123'S BE SUBSTITUTED FOR C-130'S BECAUSE THE LATTER ARE TOO HEAVY FOR THE EXISTING RUNWAY. HAVING BEING APPRAISED OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, MEDTC HAS CONTACTED THE USAF IN THAILAND AND BEEN TOLD THAT NO C-123'S ARE AVAILABLE. AT THIS JUNCTURE, THE CONTINUATION OF THE USG-FINANCED RICE AIRLIFT TO KOMPONG CHAM IS PROBLEMATIC AND WE ARE ASSESSING ALTERNATE POSSIBILITIES.

AT SVAY RIENG, COMBINATION OF BAD WEATHER, ENEMY FIRE, AND A MINOR LANDING MISHAP HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF RICE LIFTED IN THE LAST THREE DAYS. ON JULY 28, BAD WEATHER FORCED ON C-123 TO APPROACH SVAY RIENG FROM LOW ATTITUDE. THE AIRCRAFT THEN ENCOUNTERED ENEMY FIRE AND RECEIVED

FOURTEEN SMALL HITS. ON JULY 30, THE SECOND C-123 LANDED SLIGHTLY OFF THE AIRSTRIP, WITH ONE WHEEL TOUCHING THE SOFT SHOULDER. ONE PROPELLER WAS DAMAGED, AND THE AIRCRAFT HAD TO STAY IN SVAY RIENG OVERNIGHT ALTHOUGH THE CREW WAS PICKED UP BY ANOTHER AIRCRAFT AND RETURNED TO SAIGON. A REPLACEMENT PROPELLER WAS FLOWN IN JULY 31, AND IS BEING INSTALLED AT THIS MOMENT. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO SAIGON LATER TODAY, JULY 31.

THE CUMULATIVE TOTALS REPORTED IN OUR LAST CABLE CONTAINED SOME DISCREPANCIES. THE REVISED FIGURES FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 29 ARE AS FOLLOWS:
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A) KOMPONG THOM: ONE AIRLIFT ONLY, OPERATED BY THE GKR.
CUMULATIVE TOTAL 306.3 MT.

B) SVAY RIENG: FROM JULY 1 THROUGH 15 THERE WAS A COMBINATION OF USAF AIRDROPS AND GKR AIRLIFT FOR A TOTAL OF 362.1 MT. FROM JULY 15 THROUGH 29, THERE WAS A DUAL AIRLIFT GKR/AIR AMERICA FOR A TOTAL OF 745.1 MT. THE GRAND TOTAL THROUGH JULY 29 IS 1,107.2 MT.

C) KOMPONG CHAM: DUAL AIRLIFT GKR/USAF STARTING JULY 11.
TOTAL AIRLIFTED THROUGH JULY 29 IS 720.0 MT.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ENDERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 73 PHNOM PENH 7709
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30 JUN 2005

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Secure: OPEN
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